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THIS SUMMER CONSERVING WATER IS A MUST!

Simple Ways You Can ', Help Avoid ationing . . . oney, Too.

essage from
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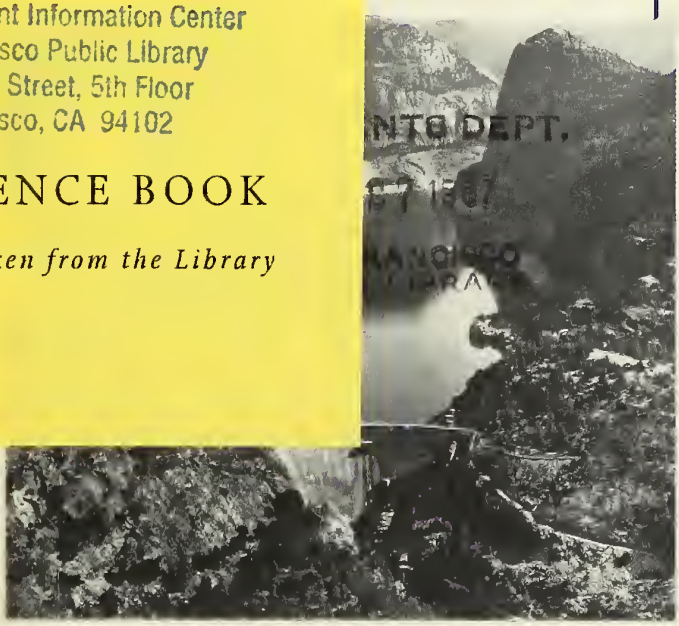
Hetch Hetchy Reservoir



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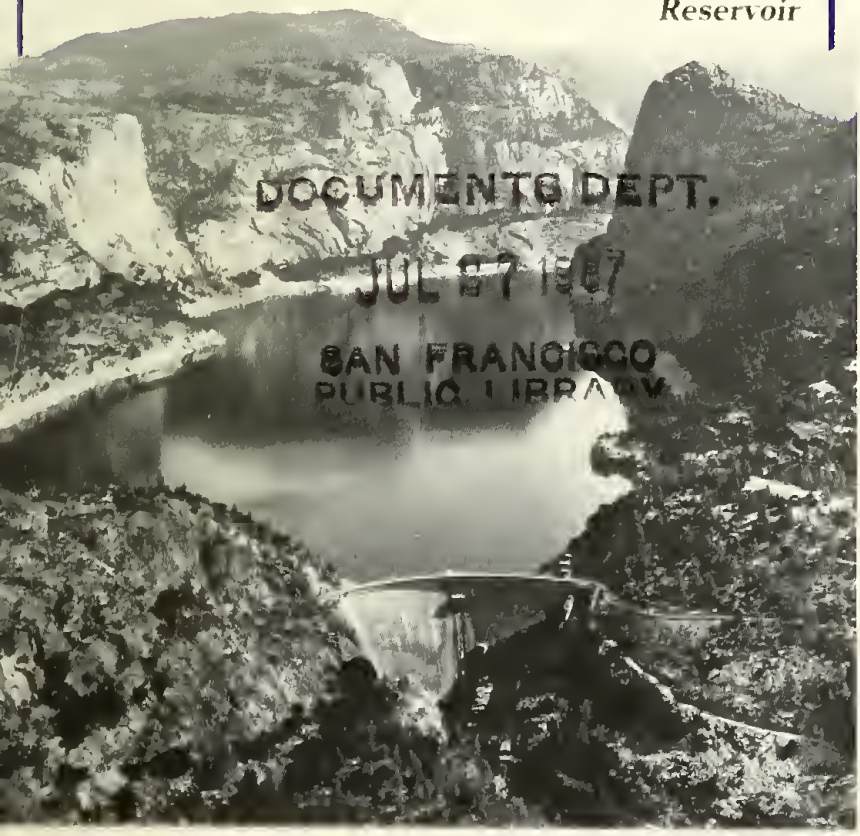
THIS SUMMER CONSERVING WATER IS A MUST!

Simple Ways You Can Conserve Water, Help Avoid Future Water Rationing . . . And Save Money, Too.

An important message from
THE SAN FRANCISCO WATER DEPARTMENT

Hetch Hetchy Reservoir



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Be A Water Guardian For Your Garden

Most irrigation can be cut 25% with no harm at all to the landscape. By decreasing irrigation by 25% this summer, we can achieve the 10% overall water reduction needed to offset last winter's low rainfall. Excessive irrigation of lawns, shrubs, trees and plants is one of the most common wastes of water. According to horticulturists, almost as many plants suffer from *too much* water rather than *too little*.

The answer? Install low-cost moisture meters to tell you when your lawn or garden is really thirsty.

When water overflows on sidewalks and into gutters, we know we've irrigated too much. But we often forget.

So, install irrigation timers on the sprinkler system. They're inexpensive, but effective. If your hardware store, nursery or other merchant doesn't carry moisture meters or irrigation timers, please ask them to order them.

Care and feeding of house plants can also contribute to water conservation. Let the water drain into other plants. This saves plant food, too.

But much depends on mulch. Plants, inside and out, prosper when redwood chips, leaves, clippings, etc. protect the soil from excessive water evaporation.

Guarding your garden pays off. And it conserves precious water.

Why A 10% Reduction In Water Use Is Essential.

This past winter was one of the driest in Northern California's history. Rainfall was scarce. Even worse, the snowpack in the Hetch-Hetchy Sierra watershed — the source of 80% of our water — was less than 50% of normal!

SHOULD YOU BE CONCERNED? The current rate of water consumption is running over 8% more than last year! *This will necessitate water rationing if next winter is also dry — unless we all cooperate in voluntary conservation efforts . . . NOW!*

Please Be Prudent In The Use Of Water Inside And Outside Your Home. This Means Using The Water You Need — BUT NOT WASTING IT.

Remember, when you save water, you save money on *both* water and utilities. Try the many easy ways to conserve water listed inside.

WATER IS PRECIOUS
USE IT WISELY

Take These Simple Steps To Conserve Water

Be A Leak Detective.

The smallest leak wastes water and your money.

Most home leaks occur in toilets: Drop bluing or food coloring into the tank. Color seeping into the bowl indicates leakage. Adjusting and/or replacing the mechanisms in the tank (available at any hardware store) can stop the leak.

A dripping faucet is not just annoying. It can waste gallons of water every day. Replacing a worn-out washer can solve the problem.

Use your water meter to detect leaks. Make sure all faucets are turned off. Then check the position of the one-foot hand on your water meter. After 10 minutes, take another reading. If the meter indicates water has been used, (and toilets have been flushed), you need to check for leaks. Shut off the main house valve and again check the meter after 10 minutes. Movement of the one-foot hand indicates a leak between the meter and the house valve.

Leaks on your property, of course, are your responsibility. If you observe leaks that appear in sidewalk or street areas, please report them immediately to your water supplier.

Be A Household Water-Waste Watcher

When you and your family practice prudent water-use habits, the reduction in waste will be amazing! And you'll find that water conservation can sustain a comfortable way of life.

Follow these simple tips:

IN YOUR BATHROOM

- Limit the number of flushes. Don't use your toilet as a wastebasket or ashtray.
- Most toilets use more water than is really necessary. Fill plastic bottles with water, cap them and put them in the tank. (Don't use bricks!)
- Restrict the flow to your wash basin by partially closing the shut-off valves under the sink.
- Don't leave the water running when shaving or brushing your teeth. When washing, use the sink stopper.
- Take shorter showers and turn off the shower when soaping. Installing a low water use shower head or a restrictor in the existing shower head will save water and energy.

IN YOUR KITCHEN

- Wash full loads in your dishwasher or automatic clothes washer. Don't bother rinsing dishes — just scrape them before placing them in your dishwasher. If you have appliances with energy-saving cycles, use them.
- Don't run the faucet to get a cool drink of water. Store a jug in the refrigerator instead.
- Install inexpensive faucet aerators. They cut down excessive flow.

OUTSIDE YOUR HOME

- Use a bucket of soapy water to wash your car, outside windows or siding. Turn on the hose for rinsing only.
- Use a broom, not a hose, to sweep sidewalks, driveways and steps.

Remember, when you become a water saver you'll be doing *yourself* a favor. It isn't hard. And the money saved will surprise you.

Low water level at Crystal Springs Reservoir

San Francisco Water Department
425 Mason Street
San Francisco, California 94102

Do Yourself A Favor
Be A Water Saver!

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